

Re. : Response to Office Action Mailed July 28, 2005
App. No. : 10/737,034
Filed : December 15, 2003

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal system comprising:

a backboard including a top portion, a bottom portion, a front portion and a rear portion;

~~a an elongated~~ support structure that is sized and configured to position the backboard above a surface;

a backboard support assembly connected to the backboard and the support structure;
~~connecting the backboard to the elongated support; and~~

a goal support assembly including a rim and a support member with a first end that extends substantially beyond a plane that is generally aligned with the front portion of the backboard and is attached to the rim and a second end that extends substantially beyond a plane that is generally aligned with the rear portion of the backboard, an intermediate portion of the support member of the goal support assembly being attached to the backboard support assembly at an attachment point that is at least substantially behind the plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard; and

a resistance mechanism including a first end and a second end, the first end of the resistance mechanism being connected to the support member of the goal support assembly

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and the second end being connected to the support structure, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to allow the rim to move between a first position in which the rim is generally perpendicular to the front portion of the backboard and a second position in which the rim is disposed at an angle to the front portion of the backboard, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to bias the rim into the first position.

2. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the second end of the resistance mechanism is connected to the backboard support assembly. ~~further comprising a resistance mechanism connected to the goal support assembly and the elongated support.~~

3. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 2, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to a rear portion of the elongated support and the resistance mechanism is disposed behind the plane that is generally aligned with the front surface of the backboard.

4. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the first end of the resistance mechanism is connected to the second end of the goal support assembly. ~~further comprising a resistance mechanism connected to the goal support assembly and the backboard support assembly.~~

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5. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1 [4], wherein the resistance mechanism is disposed behind the plane that is generally aligned with the front portion surface of the backboard.

6. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the backboard support assembly includes two arms and each of the arms include an upper portion that is connected to the backboard and a lower portion that is connected to the goal support assembly.

7. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the elongated support is connected to a portable basketball system.

8. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the height of the backboard and rim is adjustable relative to a playing surface.

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9. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal system comprising:

a backboard;

a support structure pole;

a backboard support assembly connecting the backboard and the support structure pole, the backboard support assembly including an end that extends below a lower portion of the backboard;

a goal support assembly including a rim and an elongated support member, the elongated support member including a first end that is disposed beyond a front portion of the backboard and is attached to the rim, the elongated support member including a second end that is disposed beyond a rear portion of the backboard, the goal support assembly being connected to the end of the backboard support assembly that extends below a lower portion of the backboard at a connection point that is spaced apart from and below the lower portion of the backboard; and

a resistance mechanism including a first end and an opposing second end, the first end of the resistance mechanism being connected to the elongated support member of the goal support assembly, the second end of the resistance mechanism being spaced apart from the elongated support assembly, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to allow the goal support assembly to move from a first position to a second position when a force greater than a predetermined amount of force is applied to the rim, the resistance

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mechanism being sized and configured to move the goal support assembly from the second position to the first position when the force applied to the rim is removed.

10. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the support pole and the resistance mechanism is disposed behind a plane that is generally aligned with a front surface of the backboard.

11. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the backboard support assembly and the resistance mechanism is disposed behind a plane that is generally aligned with a front surface of the backboard.

12. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal system comprising:

a backboard;

a support that is sized and configured to position the backboard above a playing surface;

a backboard support assembly that is sized and configured to connect the backboard to the support;

a goal support assembly including a rim and an elongated member with a first end

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that extends substantially beyond a plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard and is attached to the rim and a second end that extends substantially beyond a plane that is generally aligned with the rear of the backboard, an intermediate portion of the goal support assembly being connected to the backboard support assembly; and

a resistance mechanism including a first end and an opposing second end, the first end of the resistance mechanism being ~~that is~~ connected to the goal support assembly, the second end of the resistance mechanism being spaced apart from the goal support assembly, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to allow the goal support assembly to move from a first position to a second position when a force greater than a predetermined amount is applied to the rim, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to move the goal support assembly from the second position to the first position when the force applied to the rim is removed.

13. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, the goal support assembly is attached to the backboard support assembly behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front surface of the backboard.

14. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to a rear portion of the elongated member of the goal support assembly and

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the resistance mechanism is disposed behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front surface of the backboard.

15. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the backboard support assembly.

16. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the support.

17. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the backboard support assembly includes two arms and each of the arms include an upper portion that is connected to the backboard and a lower portion that is connected to the goal support assembly.

18. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the support is connected to a portable basketball system.

19. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the height of the backboard and rim is adjustable relative to a playing surface.

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20. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, further comprising a support structure that interconnects the support and the backboard support assembly.

21. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the backboard support assembly includes at least one support arm that is pivotally connected to the goal support assembly at a connection point that is disposed at least substantially behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard.

22. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 12, wherein the elongated member of the goal support assembly is pivotally connected to the backboard support assembly at a connection point that is disposed at least substantially behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard.

23. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein the backboard support assembly includes at least one support arm that is pivotally connected to the goal support assembly at a connection point that is disposed at least substantially behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard.

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24. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein the elongated member of the goal support assembly is pivotally connected to the backboard support assembly at a connection point that is disposed at least substantially behind a plane that is generally aligned with the front of the backboard.

25. (Previously Presented) A basketball goal system comprising:

- a backboard;
- a support structure that is sized and configured to position the backboard above a playing surface;
- a backboard support assembly connected to the backboard, the backboard support assembly including a first support arm and a second support arm;
- a goal support assembly including a rim and an elongated member, the elongated member including a first elongated arm and a second elongated arm, the first elongated arm being pivotally attached to the first support arm at an attachment point that is at least substantially behind a plane that is generally aligned with a front portion the backboard, the second elongated arm being pivotally attached to the second support arm at attachment point that is at least substantially behind the plane that is generally aligned with the front portion the backboard; and
- a resistance mechanism including a first end and an opposing second end, the first

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end being that is connected to the elongated member of the goal support assembly at an attachment point that is at least substantially behind the plane that is generally aligned with the front portion the backboard, the second end of the resistance mechanism being spaced apart from the goal support assembly, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to allow the goal support assembly to move from a first, generally level position to a second, collapsed position when a force greater than a predetermined amount is applied to the rim, the resistance mechanism being sized and configured to move the goal support assembly from the second position to the first position when the force applied to the rim is removed.

26. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 25, wherein the resistance mechanism is also connected to the backboard support assembly.

27. (Previously Presented) The basketball goal system as in Claim 25, wherein the resistance mechanism is also connected to the support structure.